GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1244
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
WIRELINE CAPACITY OF BSNL
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has made huge investment after it was demerged from the Department of Telecom (DoT);

(b) if so, the details of investments made, year-wise;

(c) the total wireline capacity of BSNL and number of subscribers on BSNL network on the date of incorporation and as on October 31, 2005; and

(d) the investments made by the BSNL in wireline business during the last three years and the future plans of BSNL in wireline business?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the Capital Expenditure incurred by BSNL during the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 are as under:

	Year	Capital Expenditures Incurred (Amount Rs.No. in crores)
1.	2001-02	17006.32
2.	2002-03	12057.00
3.	2003-04	6537.16
4.	2004-05	7445.66

(c) Total wireline capacity of BSNL network as on 01-10-2000 was 2,97,44,101 which has grown to 4,71,85,637 as on 31-10- 2005.

(d) Details of the Capital Expenditure incurred towards Wireline Business during the last three years is as under:

	Year	Capital Expenditures Incurred (Amount Rs.No.in crores)
1.	2001-02	13478.08#
2.	2002-03	7352.13#
3.	2003-04	5113.75$
4.	2004-05	1820.01

# includes Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system also.
$ includes WLL and Cellular Mobile Service also.

A part of the network component such as transmission network and other infrastructure is shared by the wireline, WLL and Cellular Mobile Services due to which exact segregation of scheme wise investment is not available.

As regards future plans of BSNL in wirelines business, it is stated that the new exchanges are being opened only in exceptional cases and in those areas which are techno- commercially viable. However, to clear the pending waiting list in rural areas where capacity is available, norms for laying of underground cable have been relaxed upto 5 kms from the earlier standard of 2.5 kms. A major setback to wireline telephony is the churn of subscribers towards wirelines services due to which surrenders in wireline are being observed over the last few years. This is a worldwide trend not peculiar to BSNL. Nevertheless BSNL has been making all efforts to arrest the surrenders. Some of the initiatives that BSNL has taken to reverse this trend include:

(i) Value added features are being offered to wireline subscribers just like those in mobile services.

(ii) BSNL has launched Broadband in January 2005 and is offering these services to its landline subscribers.

(iii) The external plant faults which is the most vulnerable segment in the wireline network is being improved by replacement of paper core cable by jelly filled cable and converting the external plant poleless.